Barter trade for import of edible oil

2760. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any arrangement with some foreign countries to enter into a barter trade for saving foreign exchange on edible oil import;

(b) if so, what are the names of such countries and details of arrangement of barter trade; and

(c) how much foreign exchange would be saved in such an arrangement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

One contractor at one station

2761. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for which request of M/s. A. H. Wheeler and Co. for allotment of Bookstall on those platforms newly constructed on or after 1st January, 1976 at Katihar, Samastipur, Guwahati and Allahabad stations were not accepted even after the decision of Government for one contractor at one entire station;

(b) the details of suggestions received from Members of Parliament for better administrative benefits to appoint one Book-stall contractor at one entire station; and

(c) the action taken on each suggestion?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) As per extant policy, all new book-stall contracts are reserved for unemployed graduates, their cooperatives, partnerships, associations and co-operative societies of actual workers and vendors. Suggestions were received by this Ministry that for better service to the passengers as well as for better administrative control by the Railways, there should be only one bookstall contractor at one station and that M/s. A.H. Wheelers be allotted bokstalls at new platforms constructed after 1-1-1976 at stations where they have sole selling rights. Suggestions were examined and it was decided that it is desirable to have one bookstall contractor at one station as far as possible but in case of M/s. A.H. Wheelers this is to be examined in each case on merits provided M/s. A.H. Wheelers surrender bookstall of higher value at some other station.

Amendment to workmen's compensation Act

2762. SHRI SHARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to amend the second provision to subsection (2) of section 21 of the Workmen's Compensation Act by deleting the words 'unless all the parties to the proceedings agree to the transfer, through a suitable amendment in order that transfer of cases could be affected easily in deserving cases.

(b) whether any such proposal received from the Government of Orissa is pending with the Central Government since long;

(c) if so, what action has been taken so far in this regard; and

(d) whether any proposal is under Government's consideration to protect the interest of poor illiterate migrant workers (workmen) regarding trial, compensation etc.?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The suggestion for amendment of sub-section (2) of section 21 of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 has been included in the current batch of proposals for amendment of the Act, which is under consideration.